

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 TRSY-06 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8397

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E. O. 11652:NA

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, GW, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS ON EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING

1. THE UK QUALITY PRESS WAS UNIFORMLY GLOOMY ABOUT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING. THE TIMES SAID THAT THE EC SUMMIT WAS NOT DISAPPOINTING BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY HAS NOW REACHED SUCH A STAGE OF DEMORALIZATION THAT ACHIEVEMENTS ARE SCARCELY EXPECTED. PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN ALSO TOOK IT ON THE CHIN FROM THE TIMES WHICH SAID HIS STATEMENTS ON THE MEETING SHOWED NO NOTE OF URGENCY OR GENUINE CONCERN.

2. THE FINANCIAL TIMES STITCHED ITS SOMBER TAPESTRY OF THE SUMMIT OUT OF THE FOLLOWING:

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--WESTERN EUROPE TODAY FACES GRAVER ECONOMIC

UNCERTAINTIES THAN AT ANY MOMENT SINCE 1973.

--THE IMPULSE AMONG THE NINE TO TACKLE THESE
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN COMMON HAS RARELY BEEN WEAKER
OR THE DIFFERENCES AMONG THEM MORE CLEARLY APPARENT.

--THE INESCAPABLE IMPRESSION LEFT BY THIS WEEK'S
DISCUSSIONS IS ONE OF RUDDERLESSNESS AND CONFUSION.

--THE NINE'S CURRENT ATTITUDE APPEARS TO BE ROOTED
IN THE HOPE THAT MUCH OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALING
WITH THE STICKY QUESTIONS WHICH THEY HAVE FAILED TO
SOLVE CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO AMERICAN HANDS.

--THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE
NEW DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION WILL BE ANY MORE WILLING
TO SHOULDER EUROPE'S BURDENS THAN THE OUTGOING
REPUBLICAN ONE. ARMSTRONG

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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